Disney

MIRRORVERSE

Belle

STORY BY Alex Singer

ART BY Irene Flores

STORYBOARDS BY Jan Apple

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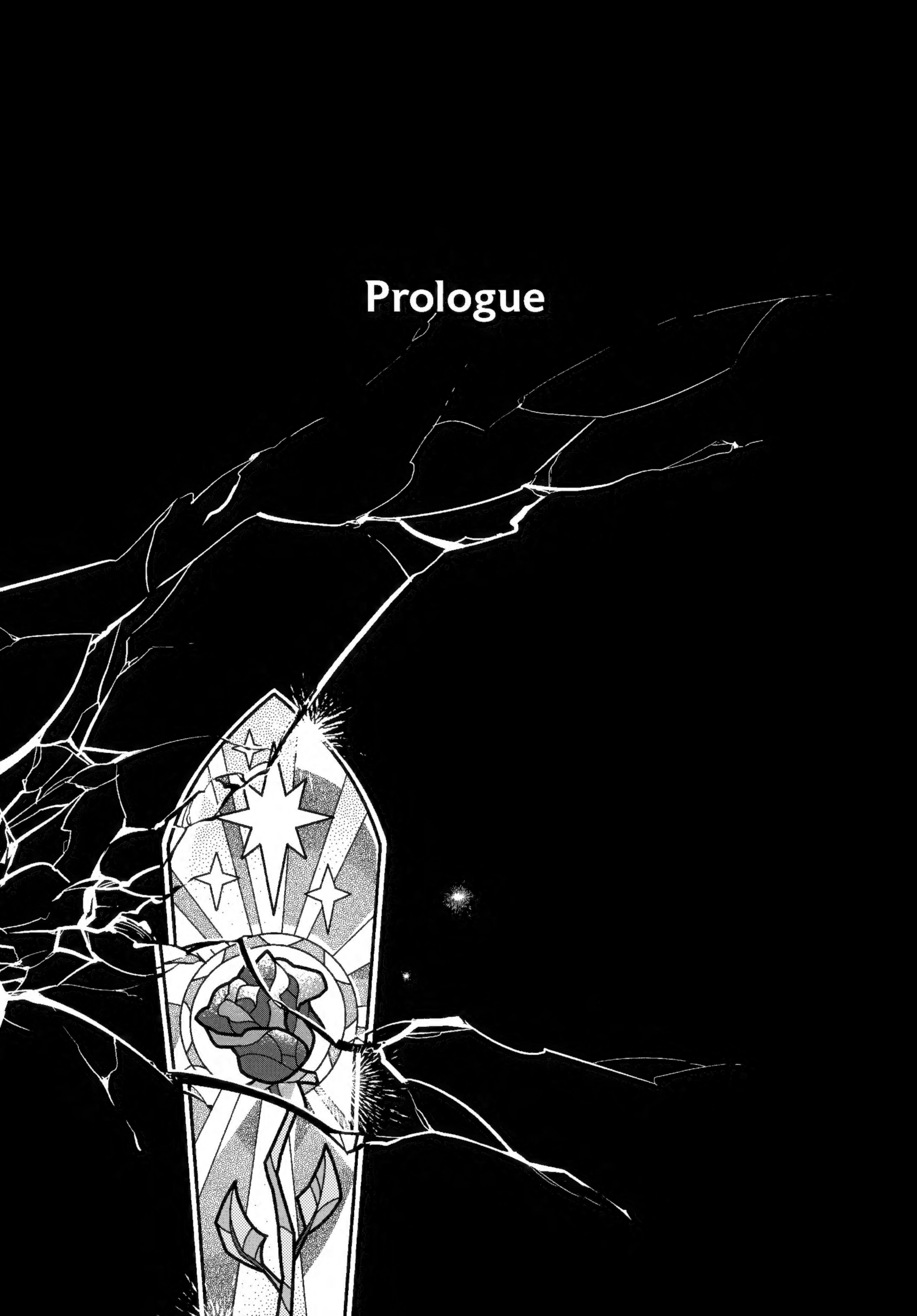
Prologue



Once upon a time, in a faraway land, a young prince lived in a shining castle.

One winter's night, an old beggar woman came to the castle and offered him a single rose in return for shelter from the bitter cold.

Repulsed by her haggard appearance, the prince sneered at the gift and turned the old woman away.

But she warned him not to be deceived by appearances...

...for beauty is found within.

SHH

And when he dismissed her again, the old woman's ugliness melted away to reveal a beautiful enchantress.

The prince tried to apologize, but it was too late, for she had seen that there was no love in his heart.

And as punishment she transformed him into a~

And placed a powerful spell on the~

castle and all who~

who~

who~

All those who lived.

The enchantress knew then that something had gone terribly wrong...

And so she fled into the woods, toward her library, where she kept all manner of knowledge.

She went with the slim hope that she could find out what had happened...

But this, too, would go terribly awry...

CRACK

HUFF

HUFF

AWOOOOOOO

IT'S COME THIS FAR...

HUFF HUFF

SWIP

THMP

THMP

THMP

THMP

GRRRRRRRR

IF IT GETS ANY STRONGER, I WON'T BE ABLE TO...

GRAB!

!!

HUFF

SOMEONE... THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO CAN—

HUFF

NO! HOLD IT TOGETHER.

HOLD IT TOGETHER FOR JUST A LITTLE LONGER...

HELP...

SHIIING

PAPA?

OHHH, I KNEW I SHOULD'VE GONE WITH HIM.

KRK

PAPA!

...!

...

CRNCH CRNCH

HELP... US...

CAW! CAW!

AHH!

THAT'S...

FLAP FLAP

...NOT PAPA...

CAW! CAW!

FLAP

HELP!

THWAAK!

CAW!

CAW!

LEAVE THEM ALONE!

CAW!

WHERE ARE YOU HURT?

MM...

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

COUGH COUGH

OF COURSE IT DOES!

THE TOWN ISN'T FAR FROM HERE. PLEASE, LET ME TAKE YOU BACK...

IT'S TOO LATE. THIS IS ALL WRONG.

IT'S GROWN TOO MUCH.

WHAT HAS?

THE MAGIC. IT'S TOO POWERFUL FOR ME NOW.

IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE REACHED THIS FAR... IT'S GOTTEN INTO EVERYTHING...

LET ME TAKE YOU TO THE VILLAGE. YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE.

SUCH A KIND GIRL.

YES. I SUPPOSE IT SHALL HAVE TO BE YOU.

TAKE THIS...

MY LAST ROSE.

IT WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO SURVIVE THIS PLACE AND GRANT MY FINAL WISH.

FINAL... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SURVIVE HOW?

TAKE THIS ROSE, AND FIX WHAT'S GONE WRONG...

NOW, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN...

WHOOSH

Chapter One:
The Edge of the Woods

IT IS A LITTLE TOWN... BUT NOW IT'S MORE THAN JUST PROVINCIAL.

EVER SINCE WE CAME HERE, I'VE KNOWN THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THOSE WOODS.

BUT AFTER THAT DAY, THINGS REALLY BEGAN TO CHANGE...

THERE GOES THE BAKER. HE HAS MORE TRAYS THAN HE USED TO.

HIS BREAD AND ROLLS FEED THE WHOLE TOWN.

BOULANGERIE

BONJOUR, MADEMOISELLE!

BONJOUR, MONSIEUR!

GETTING STARTED EARLY, I SEE.

LATELY, THE MILL DOESN'T STOP IF I STOP. IT JUST GOES!

YOU'RE NOT FEELING... WORN-OUT, ARE YOU?

I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN YOU TAKE A BREAK IN A LONG WHILE.

NO, TAKE FIVE! IT'S ON ME.

I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BAGUETTE?

OH, NO. I COULDN'T POSSIBLY–

NONSENSE. COME, BELLE. WE WORRY ABOUT YOU.

I'M REALLY FINE. I'M ON MY WAY TO THE BOOKSHOP.

!!!

EN GARDE!

TAKE AT LEAST ONE.

EASE A WORKMAN'S MIND, ALL RIGHT?

ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.

HE'S UP TO 200 LOAVES A DAY. LAST YEAR IT WAS 50.

BUT THEY BELIEVE THIS IS ALL NORMAL.

I NEED 60 EGGS-- 60!

I GUESS IT IS STARTING TO BECOME NORMAL. WELL...

Bolanger
70, 86, 123, 150, 168, 184, 200

ALMOST, ANYWAY.

?

SHH

OH, NO YOU DON'T.

SLAP

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THERE?

!!

AH! BONJOUR, MADAME!

JUST ON MY WAY TO THE BOOKSHOP.

SWIP

THEY CAN'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO. THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND SCARES THEM, AND WHEN PEOPLE ARE SCARED...

AGAIN, DARLING? YOU MUST BE SO LONELY. WE'VE BEEN THINKING OF YOU...

THANK YOU, BUT I'M FINE, REALLY. HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

THE WOODS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE.

THEY KEEP GETTING WORSE.

WHILE THE VILLAGERS GAIN NEWFOUND ENERGY, THE WOODS OUTSIDE ARE BECOMING DARKER AND STRANGER, TRANSFORMING ANYTHING INSIDE.

MY FATHER BUILT WALLS AROUND THE VILLAGE TO KEEP THE WOODS AND THEIR INFLUENCE OUT, BUT...

...LITTLE PIECES KEEP SLIPPING THROUGH.

R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R

WITH THE POWERS THE ENCHANTRESS LEFT TO ME...

...I CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH...

SKEE SKEE

THE WOODS ARE GOING TO KEEP GROWING. AND ONE DAY MY FATHER'S WALLS AREN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH.

THE ENCHANTRESS ASKED ME TO FIX WHAT'S WRONG.

I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHY THIS IS HAPPENING.

AND WHY IT'S GETTING WORSE.

I'VE READ JUST ABOUT EVERY BOOK I COULD...

...BUT WITHOUT ACCESS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

TP
TP
TP

...I'M BACK TO REREADING THEM FOR CLUES.

FAIRYTALE MAGIC

HELLO? IS ANYONE THERE?

...THAT'S STRANGE.

THE BOOKSHOP'S NOT USUALLY CLOSED AT THIS HOUR.

AHA! WHAT IS THIS I SPY?

!!!

SOME LOVELY LADY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?

GOOD MORNING, GASTON.

I WAS JUST HERE TO RETURN SOMETHING.

ALL THAT READING...

YOU KNOW, BELLE, THAT MIGHT GIVE PEOPLE THE WRONG IDEA.

I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND, GASTON.

I WONDER IF HE JUST STEPPED OUT...

EVERYONE'S SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU SINCE, WELL, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER.

THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME, GASTON.

IT'S MY JOB TO ASK. AFTER ALL, YOU ARE SPEAKING WITH THE ROYAL—

ROYAL HUNTSMAN NOW, ISN'T IT?

EXACTLY! YOU MUST NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

TO KEEP YOU SAFE FROM ANY... STRANGE INFLUENCES?

...

WHERE'S THE BOOKSELLER?

SEEMS THE WOODS GOT TO HIS HEAD. POOR MAN WASN'T ACTING RIGHT.

WHY, WHO KNOWS WHAT AWFUL THINGS HE COULD HAVE LET IN?

GASTON, WHAT DID THEY DO WITH HIM?

OH, DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY HEAD ABOUT IT, BELLE. THEY JUST...

FWSH

...RETURNED HIM TO WHERE HE BELONGED.

HWOOOOO

HM.

HUFF

HUFF

!

NOT AGAIN...

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

REACH

SHF

SHF

NORMALLY PEOPLE CAN'T STAY IN THE WOODS FOR LONG WITHOUT BEING TRANSFORMED BY IT...

...BUT I CAN.

I'LL FIND YOU.

SHIMMER

TMP

GASP

CAW...

SCRTCH SCRTCH

GO BACK... GO BACK...

OTHER WORLDS

HOLD ON. LET ME TRY TO HELP.

GLOW

MY MAGIC CAN FIX IT... SOMETIMES.

BUT EVEN THIS MAGIC CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH.

I'M SORRY.

GO—

BA-CAW!

I NEED TO LEARN MORE.

I HAVE TO LEARN MORE. OTHERWISE...

THERE MAY BE NO COMING BACK FROM THIS.

Chapter Two:
The Last Rose

I FOUND THEM THE DAY THEY THREW OUT THE BOOKSELLER.

A FOOTSTOOL AND A PORCELAIN TEACUP.

RRRR

TINK

WHSP

WHSP

WHSP

THEY DIDN'T MATCH ANYTHING IN TOWN.

FORTUNATELY, THE TOWN ISN'T THE ONLY PLACE I CAN LOOK.

THE ENCHANTRESS'S LIBRARY.

THE ROSE SHOWED ME THE WAY. IT WAS PART OF HER LAST GIFT TO ME.

SPELLS. STORIES. ARTIFACTS. I'VE STUDIED ALL OF THEM.

BUT SO FAR, NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL ME WHY THIS IS HAPPENING...

...OR HOW TO REVERSE IT.

SKIT-TER-R-R-R

!

CREAAAK

SHAAAAA

ANOTHER ONE?

PAPA...

I COULDN'T SAVE THE BOOKSELLER...

THE WOODS GOT TO HIS HEAD.

OH DEAR...

I'M SO SORRY. PLEASE, DON'T BE TOO HARD ON THEM.

OR YOURSELF.

TMP

HE RARELY LEFT HIS STORE. THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT THERE...

...AND NO WAY THE WOODS GOT INTO THE VILLAGE! YOUR WALL'S SEEN TO THAT. THEY JUST THREW HIM OUT!

JUST BECAUSE HE WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT!

PEOPLE DON'T THINK CLEARLY WHEN THEY'RE SCARED, BELLE.

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN CHANGED BY ALL THIS, TOO.

IF THEY'D JUST TALKED TO HIM...!

IF ONLY I KNEW HOW TO CHANGE HIM BACK...

...OR CHANGE YOU BACK...

BELLE... NONE OF THIS WAS THE VILLAGERS' FAULT. OR YOURS.

CREEAK

OH, PAPA.

YOUR TRANSFORMATION'S GETTING WORSE, ISN'T IT?

CREAAAK

OH, IT'S FINE, BELLE.

BESIDES, I'M FIT AS A FIDDLE, EVEN IN THIS FORM!

THIS OLD TREE KEEPS ME GABBING, JUST LIKE YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD.

WHAT'S THE NAME OF OUR HORSE?

THAT WOULD BE– AH, ER– HMM...

GOODNESS, I'LL GET IT–

THAT'S RIGHT, PHILIPPE! ...JUST HAVING A MOMENT.

BESIDES, AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT YOU FOUND?

...

I... YES.

STAAAAARE

HM...QUALITY PORCELAIN...

NOT SOMETHING OF THIS ERA.

PURPLE. THAT'S A RARE COLOR TO SEE ROUND THESE PARTS.

AND NOT THE SORT THAT WOULD'VE COME INTO TOWN...

NOT THESE DAYS ANYWAY.

SWP

SWP

SWP

NOW ABOUT THAT MARK...

IF ONLY WE COULD CROSS-REFERENCE IT.

OH, BUT GOING THROUGH THE MANUFACTURING RECORDS MIGHT TAKE DAYS—

I FOUND IT!

THAT WAS FAST!

FWMPH

SO IT WOULD HAVE TO BELONG TO NOBILITY OR ROYALTY.

THE ROYAL CASTLE'S DEEP IN THE WOODS NOW.

THERE WAS A MESSAGE NEXT TO THE CUP.

IT WAS ASKING FOR HELP...

...

I SEE.

NOW HOLD ON, BELLE!

YOU'RE NOT GOING ALONE, ARE YOU?

I HAVE THE ROSE.

FWOOMPH

BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THE WAY! THE PATHS ARE ALL OVERGROWN!

THERE ARE MAPS. AND SOME OLD TRAVEL LOGS.

AND I HAVE A VERY GOOD SENSE OF DIRECTION!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE BEASTS, HM? IT'S NOT JUST OVERGROWTH THERE NOW.

HM...

I'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING.

A MAGIC CANNON, MAYBE?

TAKE SOMEONE WITH YOU WHO KNOWS THE WAY, AT LEAST.

CLANG!

I COULD COME WITH YOU!

NO, PAPA, I DON'T WANT YOUR TRANSFORMATION TO GET WORSE.

SOMEONE FROM THE VILLAGE?

THEY'RE TOO BUSY THROWING EVERYONE ELSE OUT.

NOW, BELLE, YOU DON'T KNOW THAT...

THE OLD BOOKSELLER KNOWS.

HM? SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HIM?

AH. YOU TOLD ME THAT ALREADY. I'LL MAKE A NOTE.

SIGH...

WHAT ABOUT THAT GASTON?

I HEAR HE'S THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN THESE DAYS.

WHY, YES, THIS IS A JOB FOR THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN!

WHO KNOWS THE WOODS BETTER THAN THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN?

HAVE I MENTIONED THAT I AM NOW THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN?

FLEX!

FLEX!

SO... I'VE... HEARD...

HE'S MUCH TOO... MUCH. BESIDES, THIS IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.

THE PEOPLE HERE DON'T... SEE THINGS THE SAME WAY.

I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY COULD DO ANYTHING EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO.

THE ENCHANTRESS TRUSTED ME WITH THE ROSE.

THAT MEANS IT'S MY JOB TO FIX THIS.

I JUST HATE TO THINK OF YOU GOING IT ALONE.

I'M OKAY. IT'S...

...A LOT SOMETIMES.

BUT I CAN FIGURE IT OUT.

THAT'S MY GIRL, ALL RIGHT. BUT STILL, LET ME HELP YOU A LITTLE?

JUST FOR MY PEACE OF MIND.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE COME UP WITH SOMETHING.

FWP!

AS A MATTER OF FACT...!

WHRRRRR

KRSH!

TNK!

THNK!

THIS SHOULD GIVE YOU A BIT MORE MOBILITY, I THINK.

AND A BETTER SPREAD OF LIGHT, WHEN YOU HOLD IT HIGH.

PAPA!

SEE? JUST NEEDS THE FINAL TOUCH.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...

LIKE ITS WIELDER. AND JUST AS BRIGHT.

ALL IT NEEDS NOW IS A NAME.

SKWEE

I HAVE AN IDEA.

THE LAST ROSE. THE GIFT SHE GAVE TO ME.

SHE ENTRUSTED IT TO ME TO SAVE EVERYONE...

I PROMISE YOU, PAPA, I WILL FIX THIS.

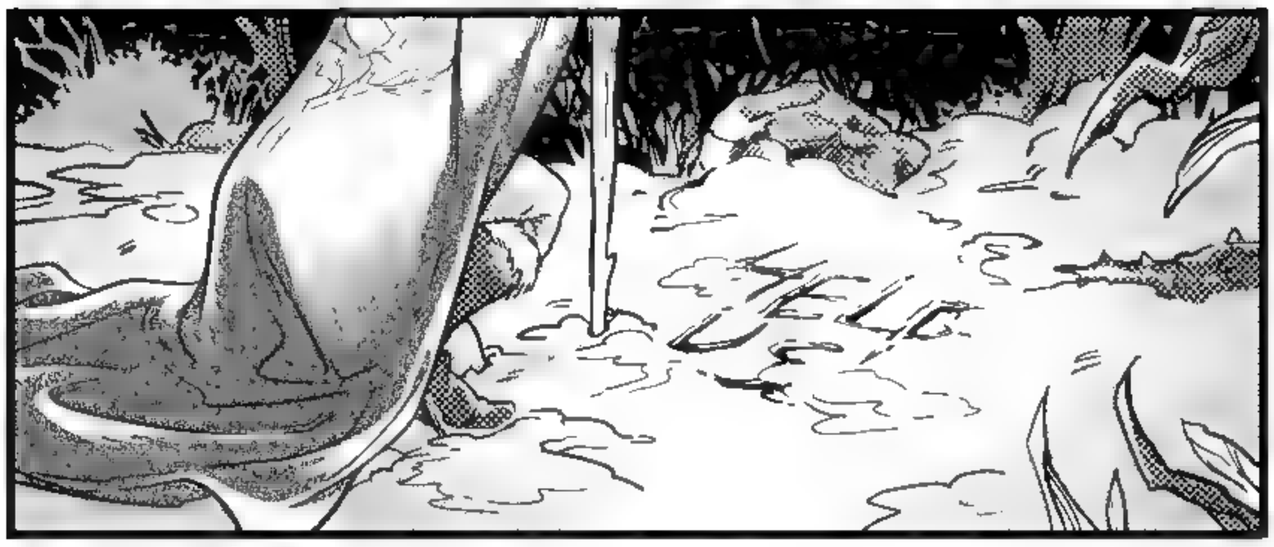
IT'S WHAT I'M MEANT TO DO, AFTER ALL.

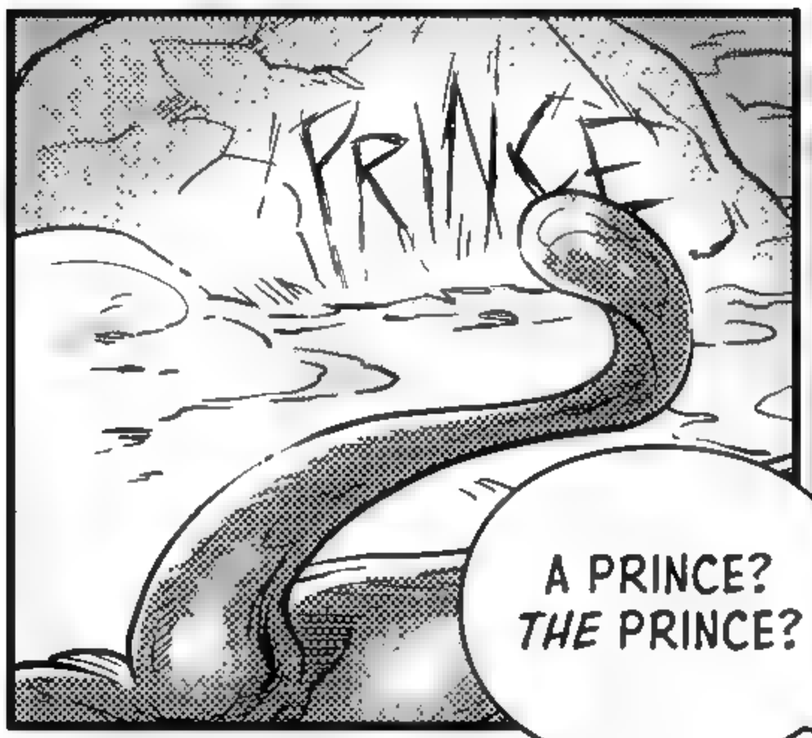
SHE

CRAAK

KRRRREAAK

SHHHH





KRRK

NO, YOU DON'T.

AND STAY THAT WAY!

THE DEEPER I GO, THE WORSE THE ENCHANTMENT GETS. THE TREES ARE GETTING BIGGER AND DARKER. AND THEY MOVE... A LOT MORE.

SHII

'NG

NOT THAT WAY...

NOT THAT WAY...

...WHICH MEANS I MUST BE GETTING CLOSER TO THE SOURCE.

FWP FWP FWP

SWISH

THE BEAST

RUSTLE RUSTLE

THE BEAST IS... WHAT?

KRRRRK

YOU–!

SWSHH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, GASTON?

TMP

WHY, RESCUING A LOVELY YOUNG WOMAN IN NEED!

LEAP

NO NEED TO THANK ME!

JUST DOING WHAT'S EXPECTED OF THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN.

WITH A BIT OF GENTLEMANLY COURTESY ON THE SIDE.

AIRYTALE MAGIC

THIS YOURS?

FWP!

WHY, YES, BUT–

YOU LEFT SO SUDDENLY. AND YOU LOOKED *SO* UPSET.

WHAT SORT OF MAN WOULD I BE IF I DIDN'T OFFER YOU A SHOULDER TO CRY ON?

HOW GENEROUS.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED, GIVEN YOUR STATE OF HIGH EMOTION, BUT THINGS AREN'T RIGHT AROUND HERE.

HOW COULD I MISS THAT.

GASTON, THIS IS VERY KIND OF YOU, BUT YOU REALLY NEEDN'T BOTHER.

AND I'M DOING IT ANYWAY. THAT'S HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE TO ME, BELLE.

BUT SEE HERE–

THIS TREE— IT WAS ONCE A PERSON.

WAS IT? WHO WERE THEY?

OH, JUST SOME TRADESMAN, PROBABLY.

DIDN'T HAVE THE CONSTITUTION FOR THIS PLACE LIKE I DO!

AND HERE, THIS...

NUDGE

POOR LE FOU. HE COULD BE SUCH A LOYAL LITTLE TOADY...

NOW HE'S SIMPLY A TOADSTOOL. MAGIC HAS AN INTERESTING SENSE OF HUMOR, DOESN'T IT?

ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME TO SHOW YOU THE WAY HOME.

ALTHOUGH YOU MUST BE SO LONELY, EVER SINCE POOR OLD MAURICE WANDERED AWAY...

MY FATHER...

DO YOU KNOW WHY HE WAS LOCKED OUT OF THE VILLAGE THAT DAY?

WHY, BELLE...

CHAK

TWANG

WE HAVE VISITORS.

AH, A LUCKY DAY FOR MY HUNTER'S TAKE. SEEMS THE QUARRY'S COME STRAIGHT TO ME.

NEVER FEAR, BELLE! I'LL HANDLE THIS!

AWOO!

GRWLL

...I'M SURE YOU WILL.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

TAKE THAT!

WELL, SINCE YOU HAVE THAT COVERED...

HM?

BELLE?

SSSSSSSSS

SKEE

SKEE

SKRCH

SKRCH

GRRRRRRRRRRR

SKRCH

CAW!

CAW!

LEAVE!
LEAVE!
LEAVE!

SKRCH

SKRCH

SKRCH

HE'S COMING.
HE'S COMING!

WELL,
THIS IS...

STRANGE?

YOU HAVE
NO CONCEPTION
OF WHAT THAT
TRULY MEANS.

CAW!
CAW!

SKREEEEE

HWOOOO

RRRRRRR

Chapter Three:
The D'Arque Wood

YOU'RE STILL YOURSELF.

I AM.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIKE THIS?

I'VE RESIDED IN THESE WOODS SINCE BEFORE THEY... TURNED.

IT'S AMAZING YOU CAN STILL SPEAK.

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW LONG THE TRANSFORMATION TOOK?

HOW MUCH CAN YOU MOVE? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN STAYING?

CREAAAK

SNAP!

DANGER...
DANGER...!

CREEEEEAK

WHY, DEAR GIRL, I RUN THE ASYLUM.

IT'S MY JOB TO... KEEP THINGS SECURE.

CAW! CAW!

SWP

IF YOU CAN STILL TALK, THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE.

HOP

TALKING TO YOURSELF IS NOT A GOOD SIGN. AND TO HAVE COME THIS FAR– YOU MUST BE RATHER CONFUSED.

ALLOW ME TO HELP.

I THINK IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.

GRRRR

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT SHOULD HAVE WORKED.

MY POOR GIRL. UNDER SUCH DELUSIONS.

NOW YOU SIMPLY *MUST* COME WITH ME.

!!!

KRAAAK

I PROMISE IT WILL BE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

FWOOM

SWIPE

THOSE TRANSFORMED BY THE WOODS ARE SO FULL OF FEAR.

FEAR IS A DANGEROUS THING, DEAR GIRL.

ROLL

DISTANCE... I NEED DISTANCE...!

OR AT LEAST SOMETHING TO HOLD HIM DOWN...

OH!

I CAN SEE IT. THEY'RE ENCHANTED TOO...

BUT THERE MIGHT BE A WAY TO ENHANCE THAT...

IF THE MAGIC HAS BEEN GROWING THROUGH THE WHOLE WOODS...

I'LL JUST NEED IT TO GROW MORE!

KRRRRRK

ONLY THOSE WHO ARE PART OF THE WOODS BELONG ANY FARTHER THAN THIS.

POOR LOST THING. IF YOU WISH TO PRESS FARTHER...

...DOES THAT NOT ALSO MAKE YOU A BEAST?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK SO MUCH...

...YOU COULD AT LEAST GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS!

BAM

PLEASE GROW.

SNAP!

SNAP!

SNAP!

AAAAK

SLAM

CAW
CAW
CAW!
FWP
FWP
FWP
SCAMPER
SCAMPER
NUDGE
PHEW.
GASP!
OH HO.
!!
...OH NO.

I'D HOPED TO HELP A LITTLE LADY IN TROUBLE.

BUT IT WOULD SEEM...

...SHE'S PROVEN MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN I MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED.

CREEEEAK

UGH...

SWIP

I...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

SLICE

WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO MADE THEM GROW?

CALL IT HUNTER'S INTUITION.

YOU DON'T SAY...

BUT SURELY, BELLE, THIS MAGIC COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THE SAME AS WHAT'S BEEN...*INFECTING* EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN TRAPPED OUT HERE?

LIKE THOSE VILLAGERS.

LIKE HIM.

NNN...

...NO. IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT—

EXACTLY, BELLE!

GRAB!

!

LET GO!

YOU'RE AN EXCEPTION.

LIKE *ME*.

LIKE YOU?

YES, I'M SURE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED...

...YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES ABLE TO BRAVE THE WOODS WITHOUT BEING TRANSFORMED.

BECAUSE OF THE ROSE, BUT–

"THOSE TRANSFORMED BY THE WOODS ARE SO FULL OF FEAR."

BUT IS IT FEAR THAT TRANSFORMS THEM...?

THERE'S NO ONE BETTER SUITED TO BE THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN.

AND NO ONE BETTER SUITED TO BE THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN'S WI–

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU ARE THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN.

INDEED I AM!

YOU MUST GO TO THE CASTLE PRETTY REGULARLY.

PUSH

OF COURSE! ROYALS NEED THEIR SUPPLIES AS MUCH AS THE TOWN!

WHY, NOT TO BRAG, BUT I'M PRETTY MUCH THE MOST RELIABLE MAN IN THESE PARTS. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE HEARD–

SO, YOU KNOW THE WAY PAST THIS WALL.

WALL?

HA!

THIS LITTLE THING?

IT'S NOTHING!

JUST A MATTER OF SOME ELBOW GREASE AND...

FLEX

CHAK

BLAM

...THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE!

LIKE I SAID, NOTHING IN THESE WOODS IS A MATCH FOR MY HUNTER'S TAKE.

WHEN IT COMES TO A GUIDE, THERE'S NO ONE BETTER...

THANK YOU! I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN!

...AND IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF THE VILLAGE WERE TO... MISUNDERSTAND YOU THE WAY THEY MISUNDERSTOOD YOUR FATHER, HM?

ERK

DID HE HAVE TO SEE EVERYTHING?

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN... I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO ESCAPE HIM LATER.

YOUR CHARIOT AWAITS.

LEAD THE WAY, GASTON.

I KNOW YOU WILL ANYWAY

GLADLY! NEXT STOP, THE ROYAL PALACE!

KRK

SHFF

RRR

AH.

WHY, THANK YOU.

Chapter Four:
Be Our Guest

...SOMETHING, ALL RIGHT.

SHHHHHHHHH

OF COURSE, YOU'RE SPEECHLESS. UNDERSTANDABLE, SINCE IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME HERE.

WHY, I FOUND IT IMPRESSIVE THE FIRST TWO OR THREE TIMES...

BUT THEN I REALIZED, SUCH GRANDNESS SUITS ME.

DON'T YOU AGREE? I'M GLAD YOU DO.

TP
TP
TP

STEP
STEP
STEP
AHA! LUMIERE, MY GOOD MAN!
HERE'S YOUR ORDER FROM MY LATEST HUNT.
BELLE, THIS IS LUMIERE, THE CASTLE'S MAITRE D'.
LUMIERE, THIS IS BELLE, MY SOON-TO-BE—
I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO YOU.
LIVELY ONE, ISN'T SHE?
I FOUND IT OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

WAIT, I-!

?

STEP STEP STEP

BOW

SO THAT'S IT!

AH!

HOW LUCKY. WE'RE GUESTS.

FOR WHAT, EXACTLY?

ONLY THE BEST EVENT FOR A DASHING YOUNG COUPLE LIKE US TO ATTEND.

..."COUPLE"...

A ROYAL BALL!

TA TA TA TA A A A

BOW

BOW

AND WE'RE THE GUESTS OF HONOR, NATURALLY.

NOTHING ABOUT THIS IS NATURAL.

*THIS IS **DEFINITELY** NOT NATURAL... I NEED TO WRITE THIS DOWN–*

*WAIT–MY NOTEBOOK! MY **STAFF!** WHAT AM I WEARING?!*

MY LADY.

*I NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON. OHHH, HOW DO I GET **RID** OF HIM?*

WHY DON'T YOU...

...TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR LATEST HUNT!

BY THE FIRE?

WHAT AN EXCELLENT IDEA! GLAD YOU INSPIRED ME TO HAVE IT!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, SO VERY GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN...

THAT'S ONE PROBLEM OUT OF THE WAY. BUT...

...ALL THESE PEOPLE. THEY'RE NOT MOVING...

HOW DO I FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN STILL TALK TO ME...

CLATTER

OH!

A MOMENT, PLEASE!

JOLT

I FOUND THIS NEAR THE VILLAGE. IT ASKED ME FOR HELP.

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S TRYING TO CONTACT ME? DO YOU KNOW WHY?

YOU CAN'T TELL ME, CAN YOU?

I PROMISE, I WANT TO...

...FIX THIS? WHERE ARE YOU– WHAT IS–DO YOU WANT ME TO FOLLOW?

SHFF
SHFF

LET ME– OH– THIS *DRESS!*

WHAT?

HOW RIDICULOUS.

WHY WOULD THE CASTLE EVEN LET THEM IN—

SIGH

FINE. I'LL HUMOR YOU.

BUT ONLY FOR NOW!

HFF

HFF

GOOD EVENING.

SPARKLE

SPARKLE

THOSE CLOTHES... AND THIS PLACE... WE'D ONLY EVER HEARD RUMORS ABOUT HIM, BUT...

I GUESS THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE THE PRINCE.

GOOD EVENING?

YOU...YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS.

AND *YOU* SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

YOUR MAITRE D' LET ME IN.

HE ANSWERS TO ME.

BUT YOUR DISHWARE DOESN'T, APPARENTLY!

I'M HERE TO RETURN WHAT'S YOURS, AT THE VERY LEAST.

I SEE. SO THAT'S WHY...

HMPH. FINE.

ON MY STAFF'S INSISTENCE—AND ONLY ON THEIR INSISTENCE—

WOULD THE... LADY CARE TO DANCE WITH ME?

WELL, FOR THE SAKE OF ANSWERS, AND *ONLY* THAT, I...HUMBLY... ACCEPT.

I'M HONORED.

DA♪DA♪DAAA♫♫DADA♫AAA♫

SO, YOU'RE THE PRINCE.

AND YOU'RE FROM THE VILLAGE.

DO YOU TALK LIKE THIS TO EVERYONE?

NO. BUT I'M HERE FOR A REASON.

IT HAD BETTER BE A GOOD ONE. NO ONE'S ALLOWED IN HERE.

SWSH

SWSH

SWSH

YOU LET YOUR ROYAL HUNTSMAN IN.

WHY'S THAT?

THAT MAN... THAT'S DIFFERENT.

DIFFERENT HOW?

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW.

HOW LONG HAS THE CASTLE BEEN LIKE THIS?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

THE ROSE IN THE MAIN HALL—

DO YOU ALWAYS ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS?!

WHEN I NEED TO, YES.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE?

WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT.

WELL, YOU SHOULD!

SAYS WHO?

SAYS ANYONE WITH EYES! JUST LOOK AT EVERYONE HERE...

...OR EVERYONE WHO'S *NOT* HERE.

THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER.

SNAP

YOU DON'T JUST GET TO WALK AWAY FROM THIS–

WATCH ME.

SHAAAAAAA

Chapter Five:
The West Wing

AND SO I BROKE OFF ONE OF THE CREATURE'S HORNS AND SAID, "AHA!"

"WELL, SEEMS IT'S THE SEASON AFTER ALL!"

WHICH WAS QUITE FUNNY OF ME, BECAUSE–

FWSHH

?

BECAUSE YOU SEE, STAGS SHED THEIR ANTLERS IN WINTER, AND–

SLAM

WAIT!

TMP
TMP
TMP

I'M NOT WRONG! THE SYMBOL IS THE SAME!

HUFF HUFF

IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONE ON THE LIBRARY! THE SAME ONE THAT BELONGED TO THE ENCHANTRESS!

CRR

REE

EAK

CLANK

CLANK

YOU KNOW SOMETHING.

LEEAAAP

SMASH

AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU KEEP IT FROM ME!

HM? YOU'RE REACTING...

SLIDE

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

NOW, WHERE...

MONSIEUR LUMIERE, WAS IT?

BOW

SZZZZ

AH!

JOLT

HOT!

I CAN'T FIX IT ALL THE WAY, NOT YET.

I'LL TRY, THOUGH.

...THE... WEST... WING...

THE MASTER... IS IN THE WEST WING...MUST HELP...

I WILL.

THANK YOU, MADEMOISELLE. PLEASE...TAKE... CARE...OF...AH...

STAGGER

I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU, I PROMISE!

DRIP DRIP

SHOW ME THE GARDEN.

GOOD.

SHOW ME THE BALLROOM.

SHING

SHING

SHE HASN'T CHANGED THAT, EITHER. GOOD.

SHOW ME THE MAIN HALL—

GLANG

HOW DID YOU GET HERE?!

WITH WHAT YOU'RE USING RIGHT NOW, I THINK.

FSHHH

THAT MIRROR IS MAGIC, ISN'T IT?

!!!

SIZZT

IT'S ALL RIGHT— I HAVE MAGIC, TOO.

YOU THINK THAT ASSURES ME OF *ANYTHING?*

WHERE DID YOU GET IT?

IT WAS A GIFT.

FROM WHO?

FROM— IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

I THINK IT IS. IN FACT, WE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON.

RATTLE

PULL

SHAAAA

I THOUGHT SO.

YOU WERE VISITED BY THE ENCHANTRESS, WEREN'T YOU?

YES. BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

I WON'T KNOW THAT UNTIL YOU TELL ME.

...FINE. IF IT GETS YOU OUT OF HERE FASTER.

AN OLD BEGGAR WOMAN CAME TO OUR DOOR.

SHE ASKED FOR SHELTER IN EXCHANGE FOR A SINGLE RED ROSE.

I DIDN'T LET HER IN.

THE ROSE WAS... BEAUTIFUL, BUT THE WOMAN WAS CLEARLY A THREAT FROM THE WOODS.

YOU COULD SEE IT ALL OVER HER FACE. SO I REFUSED.

SHE TRIED TO THREATEN ME, WARNING ME THAT APPEARANCES COULD BE DECEIVING. BUT THE WOODS WERE DANGEROUS.

YOU DIDN'T LET JUST ANYONE IN. I TOLD HER TO LEAVE.

THEN SHE REVEALED HERSELF.

THE WHOLE THING HAD BEEN A TEST.

SINCE I'D KEPT THE CASTLE SAFE, I'D PASSED. I WAS NAMED MASTER OF THE MIRROR.

SHE GAVE IT TO ME, ALONG WITH THIS ROSE.

THE ROSE'S LIGHT IS IMMUNE TO THE MAGIC OUTSIDE. THE MIRROR CAN SHOW ME ANYTHING I ASK OF IT.

I CAN KEEP WATCH AND KEEP MY PEOPLE SAFE FROM THE WOODS.

SO... I'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE, WATCHING...

WAIT.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

THE ENCHANTRESS WASN'T AN AGENT OF THE WOODS.

OF COURSE SHE WAS! ALL OF THIS HAPPENED AFTER SHE CAME.

THE WOODS TRANSFORM PEOPLE. THE ONLY REASON IT HASN'T GOTTEN US YET IS BECAUSE OF MY POWER!

BUT WHEN I FOUND HER, SHE WAS FIGHTING THE WOODS.

EH?

AND BEFORE NOW, THE ONLY SAFE PLACE I KNEW OF WAS HER LIBRARY.

IT SLOWED THE TRANSFORMATION. IT KEPT MY FATHER FROM...

WHAT LIBRARY?

MRRM– NEVER MIND! IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WHAT MAKES THE WOODS DARK, AND WHAT MAKES PEOPLE TRANSFORM–

WHAT IF IT'S TWO DIFFERENT THINGS?

IT *STARTED* HERE!

YOU'RE VERY SURE OF THAT. WHY?

...

AND THERE'S THE ROSE'S MAGIC. ITS LIGHT CAN HEAL AND PROTECT PEOPLE FROM TRANSFORMATION—

TO A POINT.

I'VE USED IT TO FIX SOME OF THE DAMAGE...

...BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP THE TRANSFORMATION MYSELF—I CAN ONLY SLOW IT DOWN.

IT SHOULD BE THE SAME FOR YOU.

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THINGS HAVE BEEN GETTING WORSE.

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IN THE CASTLE HAVE GONE QUIET, RIGHT?

CRACK

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

I MEAN YOU'RE BARELY HOLDING ON. HAS THE MIRROR CHANGED AT ALL?

HAS IT SHOWN YOU ANYTHING TO HELP? DID YOU THINK TO ASK?

OF COURSE I HAVE! IT JUST SHOWS ME THE ROSE!

CRACK

CRACK

YOUR ROSE?

AND THE ENCHANTRESS... SHE TOLD ME I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD GRANT HER FINAL WISH.

THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD FIX THIS. DID SHE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO YOU?

CRACK

I DON'T KNOW, I--

IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO. YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

CAN THE MIRROR TELL YOU?

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S *FOR*--

THAT MIRROR CAN SHOW YOU ANYTHING!

BUT HAS IT SHOWN YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE VILLAGE? TO THE WOODS? TO YOUR PEOPLE?

ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE REALLY SAFE HERE?

OF COURSE THEY ARE!

THEN WHY DID YOUR TEACUP ASK ME FOR HELP?

WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERYONE HERE?

THEY RAN!

CRASH

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT TO HEAR?

THEY RAN...

...AND THE WOODS TOOK THEM.

THEY'RE SAFE AS LONG AS THEY STAY HERE.

TREMBLE

...I'M SORRY.

I DON'T NEED YOUR PITY.

IT'S NOT PITY.

IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR YOU.

I'M THE MASTER OF THE ROSE MIRROR AND THIS CASTLE.

IF THEY STAY, I PROTECT THEM.

IF THEY LEAVE, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

...IS IT THOUGH?

DO YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?

I'M THINKING!

YOU COULDN'T HELP EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO.

YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE WORST OF IT.

THE WOODS MAKE EVERYTHING UGLY. AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO SEEMS TO SEE IT...

I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT TO SEE IT...

AWOOO

KRRRRK

"THE PEOPLE HERE DON'T... SEE THINGS THE SAME WAY."

"I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY COULD DO ANYTHING EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO."

MAYBE YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE...

FWP

FWP

FWP

!

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.

TAKE HER BACK TO THE VILLAGE!

SKREE

WAIT, WE'RE NOT DONE HERE!

POW

SHOW HIM THE TRUTH!

TWIN

SHINGGG

FSSZZT

IT'S TRUE.
YOU ARE BOUND
TO THE MIRROR.

THAT'S WHY
IT'S BEEN SHOWING
YOU WHAT YOU
WANT TO SEE.

BUT YOU
AREN'T REALLY
ITS MASTER,
ARE YOU?

NO–

NO, IT'S KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE!

ARE YOU SURE?

FSSSSZZTT

SHOW ME THE GREAT HALL!

KRRRRRK

KRRRRRK

SHOW ME THE BALLROOM!

SHOW ME MY PEOPLE!

DRIP DRIP

THAT'S NOT RIGHT. THEY'RE HERE. THEY DIDN'T LEAVE.

THE ROSE, THE MIRROR–

IT SHOULD HAVE KEPT THEM SAFE.

IT MIGHT HAVE HELPED...

...IF YOU'D PASSED THE ENCHANTRESS'S TEST.

~but it was too late, for she had seen that there was no love in his heart.

And as punishment, she transformed him into a~

...THAT'S RIGHT... THAT'S WHAT REALLY HAPPENED...

I'VE BEEN A FOOL.

THIS WAS A PUNISHMENT.

I DIDN'T LET HER IN.

WHY?

BECAUSE SHE WAS UGLY.

THAT'S AWFUL.

I KNOW.

SHE MEANT TO PLACE A CURSE ON THE CASTLE, TO TRANSFORM EVERYONE WHO LIVED THERE.

BUT... SOMETHING HAPPENED.

SOMETHING WENT WRONG.

WENT WRONG... HOW?

I DIDN'T WANT MY CASTLE TO CHANGE. I DIDN'T WANT MY PEOPLE TO CHANGE.

THAT'S ALL I COULD THINK, AS SHE BEGAN THE SPELL. IT WAS THE ONLY WISH IN MY HEART.

I THOUGHT I HAD STOPPED HER, TURNED HER OWN MAGIC AGAINST HER, BUT—

THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED.

...NO, IT WASN'T.

NOT EVEN MY MAGIC CAN STOP THE TRANSFORMATION COMPLETELY. THE MAGIC'S BEEN GETTING STRONGER OVER TIME.

DON'T CODDLE ME. I KNOW THEY TRANSFORMED ANYWAY.

JUST MORE SLOWLY.

AT FIRST IT WAS JUST THE CURTAINS, THE STATUES...

BUT THEN THE STAFF... COGSWORTH, MRS. POTTS, LUMIERE...

THEY GOT QUIETER AND QUIETER.

AND THEY ALL MOVED LESS AND LESS.

I DID WHATEVER I COULD TO TURN IT BACK. I TOLD THE MIRROR TO SHOW THEM TO ME AS HUMAN AGAIN.

IT WORKED...FOR A WHILE. BUT THE MORE I TRIED, THE HARDER IT GOT TO KEEP THEM THAT WAY.

MORE AND MORE OF THEM STOPPED MOVING. AND THE ONES WHO SAW IT HAPPENING—

IT SCARED THEM.

THEY STOPPED BELIEVING I COULD HELP THEM. THEY MUST HAVE REALIZED I WAS RESPONSIBLE.

AND WHAT I'D TRULY BECOME...

SO THEY RAN. THEY ABANDONED ME.

LIKE THE ENCHANTRESS INTENDED FROM THE START.

JUST A LONELY, UGLY—

"BEAST."

THEY NEVER NEEDED MY HELP.

THEY NEEDED TO BE SAVED FROM ME.

NO.

NO?

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

I DON'T THINK THEY WERE RUNNING FROM *YOU*.

EVERY ONE OF THE OBJECTS I FOUND— THEY WEREN'T JUST ASKING FOR HELP FOR THEMSELVES.

TOUCH

...TAKE CARE...

THEY WANTED TO HELP YOU. YOU NEVER HAD TO DO THIS BY YOURSELF.

WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE, IT'S EASY TO ASSUME THE WORST OF PEOPLE.

PEOPLE DO ACT BADLY WHEN THEY'RE SCARED. BUT...

...THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE ALONE...

...OR THAT YOU WERE ALWAYS ALONE...

...OR THAT YOU HAVE TO STAY ALONE.

MAYBE, IF YOU ASK FOR IT...

...SOMEONE WILL BE THERE FOR YOU.

MAYBE THEY DIDN'T HATE YOU.

SWISHH

RRRRRRRR

THEY SHOULD HAVE.

WAIT— HOLD ON.

THE MAGIC'S STILL RESPONDING TO YOU!

IT'S FINE. THIS IS HOW THINGS TRULY ARE.

IT'S GOING OUT OF CONTROL!

OR IT'S JUST BECOMING WHAT IT SHOULD BE...

K-R-R-R-K

K-R-R-R-R-K-K

IF THE WOODS WANT ME...

GREEEEEAK

LET THEM COME.

FZZZZZZZ

BAM

MY, ISN'T THIS...

...ODD.

KRK

KRK

KRK

Chapter Six:
Wolf at the Door

Earlier...

CRNCH

CRNCH

CRNCH

BACK SO SOON?

SURELY MY SERVICES AREN'T NEEDED AGAIN ALREADY...

CREEEAK

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. ONE SCARE SETS OFF ANOTHER.

I NEED YOUR HELP WITH A GIRL.

SHE RAN AWAY *SO* UPSET.

AND YOU WANT ME TO TAKE HER INTO CUSTODY.

FAIRYTALE MAGIC

NOT QUITE.

HELP ME PULL A FEW HEROICS, AND I THINK I MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING IN SOMETHING EVEN BETTER.

HMM... SOMETHING MIGHT BE ARRANGED.

BUT I REQUIRE SOME...LARGER QUARRY AS PAYMENT THIS TIME.

WITH YOUR HUNTER'S EYE, WE MIGHT SOLVE MORE THAN ONE...

...ABNORMALITY PLAGUING THIS UNFORTUNATE PLACE.

ROYAL HUNTSMAN, AT YOUR SERVICE.

The present...

FINE. IF YOU WON'T FIGHT FOR THEM, I WILL.

SWIP

DOOOOM

POOR GIRL. SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN TO FACE ME ALONE?

I... I WON'T LET YOU THROUGH!

GRIP

HEH.

?

THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR!

I'LL HANDLE THIS!

GASTON...

GLINT

TRUST THE HUNTER WITH THE LARGE GAME.

NOD

HEH HEH

SO YOU PLANNED THIS WITH HIM. WAS IT TO IMPRESS ME?

OH, GASTON, THAT'S SO... TYPICAL OF YOU.

NOW, BELLE. DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE JUST CONFUSED.

TAP

OBVIOUSLY, I'M HERE TO HELP EVERYONE.

THIS CASTLE'S GOT WHAT WE NEED.

SHAAAAAA

WHAT?

SNAP

I THINK YOU NEED A LITTLE BREAK. WHY DON'T WE KEEP HER SOMEWHERE MORE SECURE?

WHMPHH

GLADLY.

IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

BAM

BY WORKING WITH THE WOODS?!

AHA HA! OF *COURSE* NOT. I'VE JUST BEEN WORKING WITH THE GOOD MONSIEUR D'ARQUE!

HOW *ELSE* WILL THE VILLAGERS FEEL SAFE?

CREAK

CREAK

HE RAN THE SANITARIUM BEFORE HE WAS CAUGHT BY THE WOODS...

...BUT THAT HAS JUST MADE HIM BETTER AT KEEPING THE DANGEROUS THINGS LOCKED AWAY.

ALL HE NEEDS IS SOMEONE TO...

...IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM AREAS.

MAYBE LEAVE THEM SOMEWHERE A LITTLE EASIER TO PICK UP.

ALL THOSE PEOPLE–

SO IT REALLY *WAS* YOU...

IT'S FINE.

THE WOODS ARE WHERE THEY BELONG, BELLE.

AND MY *FATHER?*

BANG BANG

IS ANYONE THERE?

MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIND.

BANG BANG

HEH HEH

I JUST HAD TO BAR THE GATE BEHIND HIM.

HE WAS *MUCH* TOO EAGER TO GO.

NOD

ABERRANT.

SHING

ALL THAT! JUST TO LOOK LIKE A HERO?!

!!

STAB

DASH

HOW *COULD* YOU?

SWSH

YOU'RE NOT SEEING THINGS CLEARLY, BELLE.

THNK
THNK

KRRK

LOOK AROUND...

THIS IS THE REAL PROVING GROUND.

HIDING RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!

KRRRKK

WEREN'T YOU THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN?!

THAT'S WHAT THEY WANTED ME TO THINK.

CREEEAK

GRAB

TO THINK THEY WERE HIDING THE REAL POWER HERE, THE TRUE SOURCE OF WHAT'S MADE THE WOODS WHAT THEY ARE...

...AND THE POWER TO FIX IT ALL, SAVE EVERYONE, AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

THUNK

CAN YOU IMAGINE, BELLE?

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

ONCE D'ARQUE AND I HAVE THAT POWER...

NO!

YES.

SHOOM

SWIPE

JUMP

RATTLE

RATTLE

CLANK

THE MAGIC IN THIS PLACE IS THE SAME AS THE WOODS.

CRASH

GLOWWW

AND THE SAME AS YOURS, MY DEAR.

CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

I'LL HEAL YOU. GO!

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
WHY ELSE WOULD IT BE SO EASY FOR YOU TO REVIVE THEM?
SHNK SHNK
SWSHHH
IT COMES FROM THE ENCHANTRESS!
CRACK
AND WHO CURSED THIS PLACE TO BEGIN WITH?
GRAB
AH!

BAM!

HER MAGIC RUNS THROUGH EVERY BRANCH AND CRACK OF THIS CRUMBLING PLACE.

I SIMPLY WISH TO... RECLAIM IT.

CRASH

KRRK

KRRK

KRRRK

I'LL TAKE IT SOMEWHERE IT BELONGS. KEEP IT SAFE.

CRACK

YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME.

AH, PERHAPS YOU ARE HARMLESS... PERHAPS YOU EVEN MEAN WELL.

BUT WERE YOU EVER REALLY ONE OF THOSE NORMAL FOLK?

SHING

I DON'T HAVE TO BE!

IN FACT, YOU'VE NEVER *WANTED* TO BE ONE OF THEM.

HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY MADE YOUR CHOICE JUST BY BEING HERE, ALL ALONE?

SO PRIDEFUL. SO BLIND.

THE VILLAGERS ARE TOO BUSY THROWING EVERYONE ELSE OUT.

YOU COULDN'T HELP EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO.

YOU'RE AN EXCEPTION. LIKE ME.

WAS IT BECAUSE I THOUGHT I WAS BETTER THAN THEM?

NO. NO, I'M NOT.

IT'S NOT WORKING. I DON'T KNOW WHY I CAN'T CHANGE YOU BACK.

WITH A MIND LIKE YOURS, I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND A WAY. I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

AFTER ALL, AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT A HELPING HAND...

...THAT'S A VICTORY ON ITS OWN, ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I DID MAKE A CHOICE.

I'M GOING TO PROTECT *EVERYONE.*

IT'S JUST–

BAM!!

YOU...
WHY DID YOU
COME BACK?

BECAUSE NEITHER OF US CAN DO THIS ALONE.

Chapter Seven:
Tale as Old as...

NOW, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN...

THE TRUTH IS, WHEN THE ENCHANTRESS SAID THAT...

IT MADE ME **HAPPY.**

SHE REALLY IS A FUNNY GIRL...

THE VILLAGERS HAD ALWAYS CALLED ME ODD. IT'S NOT LIKE I COULDN'T HEAR THEM.

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WERE VERY QUIET ABOUT IT.

BUT AS LONG AS PAPA BELIEVED IN ME, WHAT DID IT MATTER?

THEY WERE JUST... SIMPLE PEOPLE. IN A SIMPLE COUNTRY TOWN.

WHAT DID THEY EVEN KNOW?

BUT I THINK A PART OF ME ALWAYS WANTED TO PROVE THEM WRONG. ABOUT MY FATHER. ABOUT ME.

SO WHEN SHE GAVE ME THAT ROSE AND CALLED ME SPECIAL... IT WAS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.

I WASN'T ODD. I WAS THE SPECIAL ONE— THE **CHOSEN** ONE. I'D BEEN GIVEN A TASK NO ONE ELSE COULD COMPLETE. A POWER NO ONE ELSE COULD HANDLE.

BUT PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP OTHERS DON'T HAVE TO BE CHOSEN.

OR EVEN SPECIAL. THEY JUST HAVE TO BE... KIND, AND MAYBE A BIT STUBBORN.

THE ENCHANTRESS DIDN'T CHOOSE ME BECAUSE I WAS BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

SHE CHOSE ME BECAUSE I WAS WILLING TO HELP HER.

WHEN SHE LAID THE CURSE ON THE CASTLE, SOMETHING HAPPENED.

MAYBE THE SKY BROKE. MAYBE IT WAS THE STARS. MAYBE SOMETHING ELSE DEFLECTED IT.

BUT INSTEAD OF JUST TRANSFORMING THE CASTLE, THE SPELL WENT OUT OF CONTROL...AND SPREAD.

IT TRANSFORMED MORE THAN JUST THE PRINCE OR THE CASTLE, THE ORIGINAL TARGETS...

...AND IT SPREAD OUT INTO THE WOODS, TRANSFORMING THE CREATURES...

...AND THE PEOPLE...

WHEN SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO HOLD IT BACK, SHE NEEDED TO FIND SOMEONE WHO COULD.

SHE NEEDED SOMEONE KIND ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE BURDEN, AND... I HAPPENED TO BE THERE.

BUT THAT'S FINE. BECAUSE...I WANT TO HELP THEM. THE SAME AS YOU.

I ALWAYS DID WANT ADVENTURE. I READ SO MANY FAIRY TALES...

I WANTED TO BE THE HERO OF AT LEAST ONE OF THEM.

BUT WHETHER I'M THE HERO OR NOT, THIS STORY WAS NEVER JUST ABOUT ME...

WE HAVE TO STOP THIS TOGETHER.

THERE IS NO LOVE IN YOUR HEART...

SHE WAS RIGHT. OF COURSE SHE WAS.

I'D ALWAYS LIVED IN THE CASTLE, FAR AWAY FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE UGLY, OR SCARY, OR STRANGE.

EVEN IF I DESERVED TO BE CURSED– IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HURT ANYONE ELSE.

BUT I USED THE POWER OF THE MIRROR TO AVOID MY PUNISHMENT. I USED IT TO STOP THE TRANSFORMATION.

I REFUSED TO BELIEVE I'D FAILED.

MAYBE THAT UGLINESS IS THE REASON THE WOODS HAVE GONE SO WRONG...

I LIED TO MYSELF. AND TO MY PEOPLE.

AND TO YOU.

I KEPT MYSELF LOCKED AWAY, SAME AS EVER.

BUT...LUMIERE, COGSWORTH, MRS. POTTS...

THEY WERE ALWAYS THERE WITH ME.

EVEN AT MY WORST, I DID WANT TO BELIEVE I COULD HELP THEM.

THAT I COULD DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THEM.

MAYBE IT DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR ALL MY SELFISHNESS, BUT... I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO HATE ME. TO RUN AWAY FROM ME.

IF I COULD HELP THEM, MAYBE THEY'D STAY...

EVEN IF THE BURDEN WAS NEVER MINE ALONE, IT SHOULD HAVE ENDED WITH ME.

CREA

AAK!

SHWP

TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO DO.

SOMETHING TURNED THIS SPELL OUTWARD. IT'S NOT JUST YOUR ROSE...

IF IT ISN'T THE ROSE, THEN WHAT?

SOMETHING'S AMPLIFYING IT. IF WE CAN CUT THAT OFF...

YOU MEAN...

THE MIRROR!

THE MIRROR!

THAT'S IT— THAT'S WHAT I NEED! HE SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING HERE THAT HAS THE POWER WE NEED.

HE SAID THAT SOMEONE WHOSE HEART KNEW NO FEAR COULDN'T BE TRANSFORMED BY THE WOODS.

GASTON, LET GO!

GRAB

AND NO ONE IS MORE FEARLESS THAN ME!

AFTER ALL, WHAT IS A WOOD WITHOUT ITS HUNTSMAN?

GASTON, LISTEN TO ME. IT *HAS* AFFECTED YOU. YOUR MIND—

WHATEVER YOU THINK YOU SEE...

WITH THIS MIRROR, I CAN SAVE EVERYONE.

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA

HA

GOOD HUNTSMAN.

MASTER OF THE MIRROR. MASTER OF THE WOODS.

HUNTSMAN... OF THE WOODS...

CRACK

CRACK

CRACK

WAIT— NO—WHY IS IT GOING AWAY?

...OF THE WOODS...

LOOOOM

BECAUSE WE WERE *BOTH* IDIOTS.

IT WASN'T REAL.

BAM

GRAB

GRRRRRR

SHING

I'M THE MASTER OF THIS CASTLE, AND YOU'RE NOT *WELCOME* HERE!

NOW!

FZZT

ENOUGH! STOP!

I SAID STOP—

KRRR

...NO...

OF COURSE IT WON'T... MY HEART...

IT ISN'T MY MAGIC... I'M STILL JUST A—

KRRRRRRK

TOUCH

GLOW

THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER WAY... BUT...

NO. IT'S FINE. FINISH IT.

...THANK YOU.

SHING!

SHING!

SWP

SWP

SWP

SHOW ME THE WORLD FOR WHAT IT IS!

SHWAA

As punishment, she transformed him into a hideous beast...

...and placed a powerful spell on the castle, and all who lived there.

CRK

CRK

CRRRKKK

SMASH

TINK

GREAAA-AA-AK

NO!

GET. OUT.

AAAAAAAAA

RRRR

SWIPE

!!!

SPRT

RRRRR!

BAM

I SEE... THE SPELL...

SHE ALREADY CAST IT. I CAN'T BANISH IT.

BUT I CAN MAKE IT DO WHAT IT WAS MEANT TO DO.

SWSHHH

TMP TMP TMP

GRRAAA

NO—
NO—!

HMPH

SLAM

GRUSH

THROW

FWOOSH

SHK

SHK

SHK

?

SHIIIIICINE

OHO!

ARF! ARF!

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

DRAAAAAAG

STAGGER

MM?

WHERE IS EVERYONE? IS IT DONE?

HOLD STILL.

LET ME HELP YOU.

HELP? HA HA HA... *HELP?* FROM YOU? FROM THAT...

...BEAST?!

DOO

OOOH

THAT *BEAST* IS TRYING TO SAVE EVERYONE?

AS IF THAT MONSTER EVEN *COULD*–

CHAK

THE ONLY ONE SAVING THE DAY WILL BE *ME*, THANK YOU–

URK!

K

R

R

R

K

WAIT. WAIT JUST ONE MINUTE–

PULL!

AT LEAST... *YOU*... STILL BELONG TO THE WOODS...

NO, I'VE CONQUERED THE WOODS– I FOUND THE MIRROR FOR YOU!

IT ANSWERS TO ME, YOU HEAR! ***ME!***

YOU SHOULD PRAISE ME. *PRAISE* ME! WITH THE POWER OF THE CASTLE, I'M THE HERO!

DRAAAAAG

I'M THE ONE WITH THE POWER! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ME!

WAIT, WAIT– NO! *NO!*

IT CAN ONLY BE *ME*. IT SHOULD ONLY BE ME!

DAMN

...IT REALLY CAN'T.

GLOW

Epilogue

MADEMOISELLE!
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
MADEMOISELLE?
MM?

LU... MIERE, WAS IT?

PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, MADEMOISELLE.

AND NOW THAT I AM ABLE TO GIVE A PROPER GREETING, ALLOW ME TO WELCOME YOU TO–

BOW

ULP!

BUMP!

NOW, NOW. DON'T CROWD HER. HOW ARE YOU, DEARIE?

WE MUST THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE YOUNG MASTER AND THE REST OF US.

NOW, LET'S GET YOU SOMETHING TO PERK YOU UP, HM? CHIP!

SEE, MAMA? I SAID I'D FIND SOMEONE.

HOP HOP

AND SO YOU DID. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE NOT IN TROUBLE FOR LEAVING WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE!

MAMA! I WAS HELPING!

I'M FINE NOW, THANK YOU.

SO, YOU WERE THE CASTLE STAFF.

BUT YOU'RE STILL...

GRAB

LET ME SEE IF I CAN...

IT WON'T WORK.

...IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE UNDONE THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE MIRROR TO THE VILLAGE AND THE FOREST.

A-HEM.

...THANKS TO YOUR ASSISTANCE.

BUT THE TERMS OF MY ORIGINAL CURSE STILL APPLY.

THE VILLAGE IS FREE. BUT...

...IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS AS FAR AS WE GO FOR THE TIME BEING.

BONK

WELL, DON'T THINK WE'LL LET YOU SULK WITHOUT TAKING CARE OF *YOU*, SIR!

REALLY, YOUR MAJESTY, WE'VE ALL BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

QUITE RIGHT. CAN'T KEEP YOURSELF TOO TIGHTLY WOUND!

AS IF YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

HMPH!

YOU DON'T...

IT SEEMS I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT AT LEAST...

THEY *DID* WANT TO HELP YOU.

SWSH

MM.

AND SO DO I. I'M SORRY I COULDN'T FIX THINGS THE WAY I THOUGHT I COULD. I WAS A LITTLE OVERCONFIDENT.

I HOPE YOU'LL LET ME START OVER. IT MIGHT TAKE MORE TIME, BUT–

ENOUGH. MY PEOPLE CAN TALK AGAIN.

THAT'S SOMETHING.

THE REST IS... SOMETHING I HAVE TO WORK ON.

NOT ALONE, I HOPE.

I...

NO.

IT'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH.

SHFF SHFF

SCRUB SCRUB

MY MAGIC STILL HAS LIMITS. I NEED TO LEARN MORE IF I WANT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED...

TNK

LIKE WHY THE ENCHANTRESS'S MAGIC WENT SO OUT OF CONTROL IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THE MIRROR...

SHE GAVE YOU THE MIRROR.

WHY WOULD SHE GIVE YOU SOMETHING THAT WOULD WORK AGAINST HER LIKE THAT?

WELL... HUH.

NO...SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED. SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THE ENCHANTRESS.

HMMM...

...OHHH. THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE BOOKS IN TOWN ABOUT THIS.

OOOOH

YOU ARE WELCOME TO MY LIBRARY.

SPARKLE

YOU HAVE A LIBRARY?!

Y-YES, BUT— IT HASN'T BEEN USED IN SOME TIME.

I'M...NOT VERY GOOD WITH THAT SORT OF THING...

THAT'S A GREAT PLACE TO START! DO YOU HAVE AN ARCHIVIST? IS IT INDEXED?

DO YOU NEED IT TO BE INDEXED? OH, AND DO YOU HAVE ANY—

UM. HELLO? HELLO? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

O O O O O O W

I CAN HEAR YOU, BUT... WHO ARE YOU?

OH, GOOD! SEEMS LIKE ALL THAT INTERFERENCE HAS FINALLY CLEARED.

SWSHHH

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR AGES! THERE WAS A LOT OF MAGIC IN THE WAY...

...BUT NOW THAT NASTY TRANSFORMATION SPELL'S BEEN TAKEN CARE OF!

THANKS TO YOU, I'M GUESSING. THAT HEALING MAGIC OF YOURS IS AWFUL HANDY.

I'M HERE ABOUT SOMETHING A LITTLE BIGGER.

MY NAME'S MICKEY MOUSE, AND THE GUARDIANS COULD USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

SHFF

GUARDIANS?

ALL RIGHT, MICKEY. TELL ME MORE.

THE END

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MIRRORVERSE

Belle

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